

51-55 CROWN STREET (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)  
New Haven  
New Haven County  
Connecticut

HABS No. CT-419

HABS  
CONN,  
5-NEWHA,  
45-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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Location: 51-55 Crown Street, New Haven,  
New Haven County, Connecticut.

USGS New Haven, Connecticut Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates  
18.673710.4574380

Significance: In the 1920's a successful businessman built 55 Crown Street as a small speculative investment. Later owners and tenants remodeled the building many times; the exterior in 1939, 1954, and 1980; the interior 1978 and 1980. Now little remains of the original building.

Description: 51-55 Crown Street is a two-story, yellow-brick commercial building located on the north side of Crown Street near the corner of Orange Street.

The facade is three bays wide. At the street level, the entries for three storefronts are recessed. Two of the three storefronts have been consolidated by one tenant, Mrs. Murphy's Pub. On the second floor, each bay features a three-part window: a single plate glass window flanked by double hung sash windows.

At present, vertically laid aluminum siding acts as a cornice on the roof-line and over the storefronts on the street level. Visible over the first floor cornice yet below the second floor windows is a granite stringcourse. The 2nd floor windows have been boarded up on the interior.

History: Andrew G. Smith, president and treasurer of the New Haven Window Shade Company located at 75-81 Orange Street, purchased this property in 1920 from D. A. & T. R. Blakeslee, a New Haven real estate firm. At the time, a frame structure stood on the property at 53-57 Crown and it was leased to a restaurant, highway transportation company, and a confectionery. According to city building permit #6683, A. G. Smith built a "brick business building" at 53-55 Crown Street in 1928 for \$15,200. According to city directories, the property experienced a high turnover rate of tenants and in 1941 the New Milford Savings Bank foreclosed on 51-57 Crown Street as well as two other Smith family properties, 61-73 and 75-81

Orange Street. The properties changed hands in 1942 and by 1944 were consolidated by the Gordon family: Claire B. Gordon and Adele Gordon, wives of Myron L. and Israel Gordon of the George Gordon Fruit & Produce Company.

Sources:

9th Square National Register Historic District  
Nomination, 1984  
New Haven City Building Department permits  
New Haven City Directories  
New Haven Land Records deeds  
1880, 1888, 1901 (pasteovers through 1923),  
1911 maps  
New Haven Colony Historical Society:  
DANA collection, v.17, p.61.

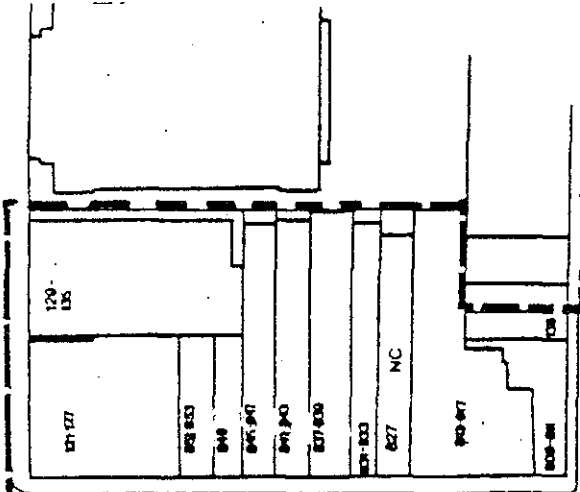
Historian:

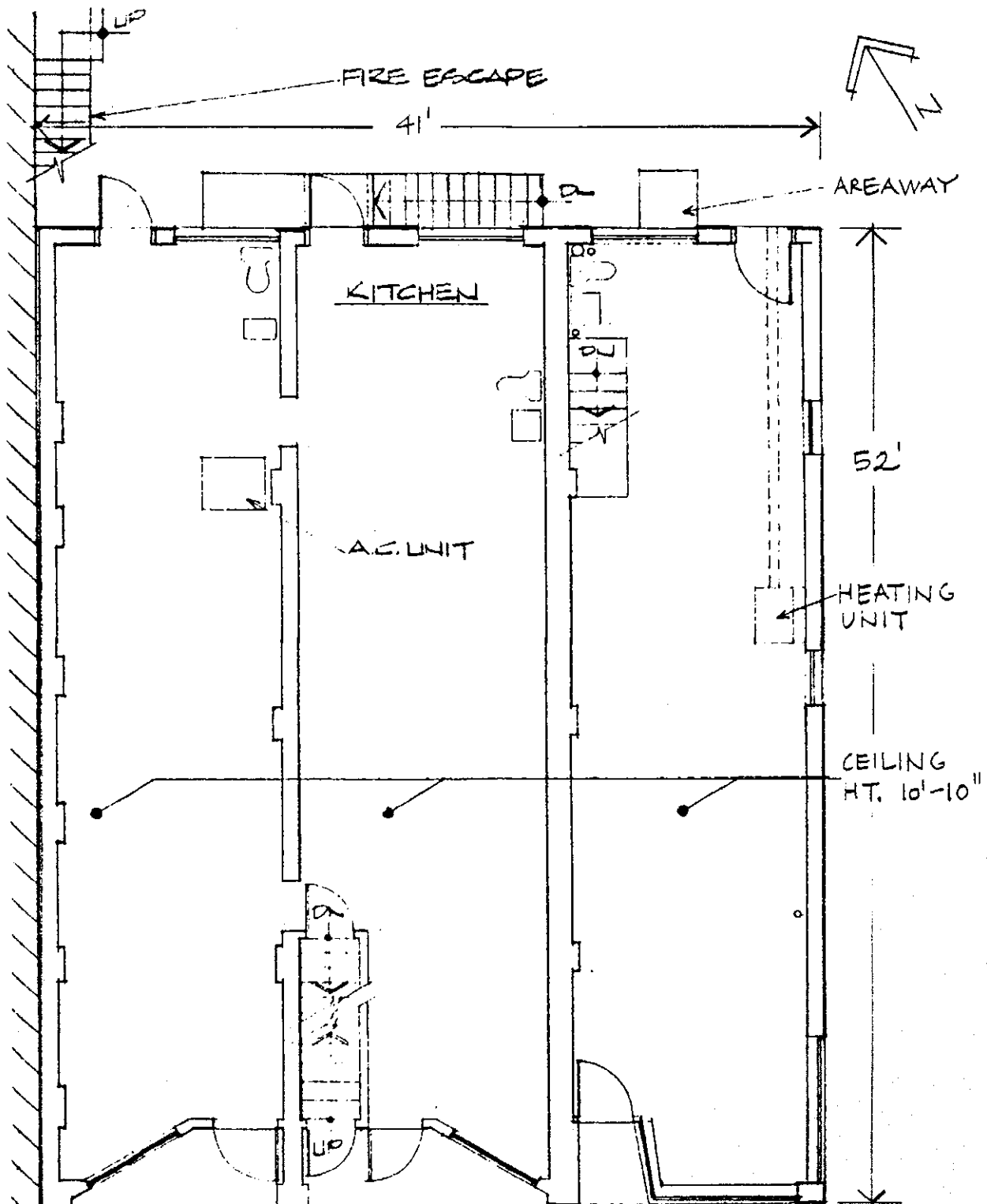
Kathleen A. Maher and Preston Maynard  
New Haven Preservation Trust  
May 20, 1990

51-55 CROWN STREET (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)  
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CHURCH

ST.

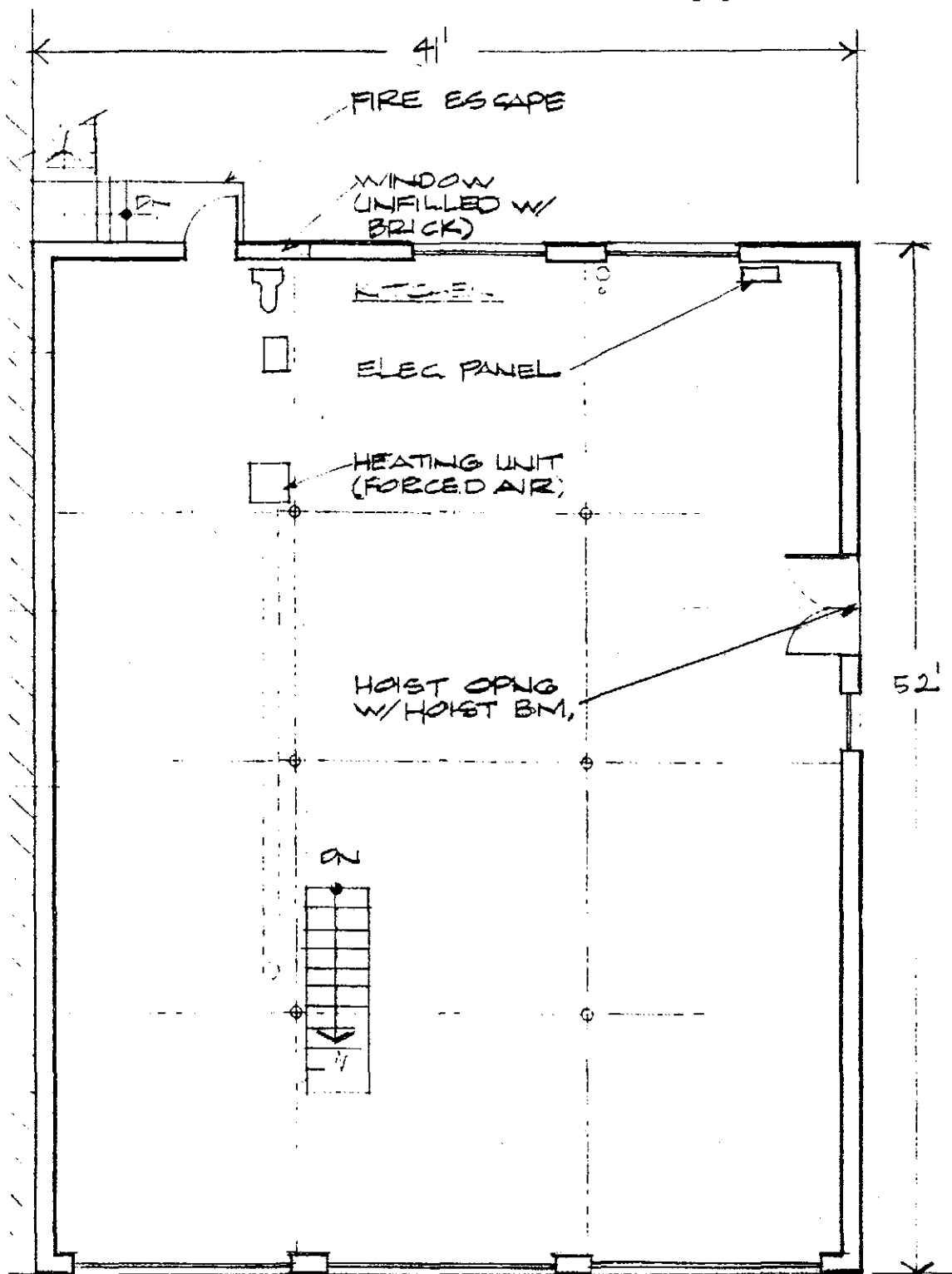




FIRST FLOOR PLAN

55 CROWN STREET NEW HAVEN CT





SECOND FLOOR PLAN

55 CROWN STREET NEW HAVEN CT

